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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/884,801	06/18/2001	Niraj Gopal	CISCO-3666	4735

7590 11/19/2004

David B. Ritchie
Thelen Reid & Priest LLP
P.O. Box 640640
San Jose, CA 95164

EXAMINER

DENNISON, JERRY B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2143

DATE MAILED: 11/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/884,801

Applicant(s)

GOPAL, NIRAJ

Examiner

J. Bret Dennison

Art Unit

2143

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 June 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 June 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Action is in response to Application Number 09/884,801 received on 18 June 2001.
2. Claims 1-16 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4, 7, 10, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Willie et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,052,724) in view of Wolf et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,278,694).

3. Regarding claims 1-3, Willie discloses a computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing a method for detecting data modifications in MIB tables, the method comprising:

selecting a MIB table that has been modified (Willie, col. 8, lines 1-7);

determining whether the most recent modification is more recent than a recorded time indicating the last time that a poll was performed (Willie, col. 8, lines 35-41).

Willie also discloses containing counters and other various variables used by the directory service to maintain the status of the portion of the distributed directory on the managed server (Willie, col. 7, lines 60-67) and he also discloses the directory service

maintaining an event system where traps are generated upon the occurrence of an event and is communicated to the management station when polling takes place (Willie, col. 8, lines 20-40).

However, Willie does not explicitly state when the most recent modification is more recent, retrieving a count of the number of modifications that have been performed on the selected table; and

determining whether the count can be resolved and when the count can not be resolved, retrieving at least one modified row for the selected table.

In an analogous art, Wolf teaches a method for collecting and reporting monitoring data for network probes where a network manager periodically polls remote probes for monitoring data, and the network manager receives messages containing counter values for the number of changes during a sampling time and using the counter values to retrieve data if applicable (Wolf, col. 5, lines 10-40).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one in the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the network monitoring of Wolf into Willie for the benefit of calculating modifications of data observed by the network manager and combining data with the modifications made by the network manager to obtain a complete set of modifications over sampling times (Wolf, col. 1, lines 40-45).

4. Regarding claims 4, 7, 10, 13, and 15, Willie discloses a method for initializing a system for detecting data modifications in MIB tables, the method comprising:

identifying at least one unregistered MIB table to be monitored for modifications (Willie, col. 8, lines 20-45);

registering the identified table (Willie, col. 8, lines 20-67);

initializing a count of the number of modifications that have been performed on the identified table (Willie, col. 7, lines 60-67);

However, Willie does not explicitly disclose initializing a timestamp as to when a last modification was performed on the identified table. In an analogous art of networking, Wolf discloses a method for collecting network data over sampling times (Wolf, col. 3, lines 40-60). Therefore it would have been obvious to one in the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the network monitoring of Wolf into Willie for the benefit of calculating modifications of data observed by the network manager and combining data with the modifications made by the network manager to obtain a complete set of modifications over sampling times (Wolf, col. 1, lines 40-45).

5. Regarding claims 5, 8, 11, Willie and Wolf disclose the limitations, substantially as claimed, as described in claims 4, 7, and 10, including

determining whether an observation of change notifications is desired or required for the identified table (Willie, col. 8, lines 20-67); and
when the observation of change notifications is desired or required, enabling observation for the identified table (Willie, col. 8, lines 20-67). See motivation for claim 4.

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6. Regarding claim 6, 9, 12, 14, and 16, Willie and Wolf disclose the limitations, substantially as claimed, as described in claim 4, 7, 10, 13, and 15, including registering a callback function for each registered table (Willie, col. 8, lines 35-45). See motivation for claim 4.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to J. Bret Dennison whose telephone number is (571)272-3910. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A Wiley can be reached on (703)308-5221. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

J. Bret Dennison
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2143

Willie C. Vaughn
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2143
William C. Vaughn Jr.